



What is Michigan's Environmental Regulatory Impact on Job Creation and Retention?

Keeping Health Care Costs Down in Michigan

A prime complaint from businesses these days is the high cost of health care. With costs rising faster than the rate of inflation, they are a major concern to both business and the almost one million residents in Michigan without health care insurance. Unfortunately, each day, we are also learning more about the impacts of dirty air and other pollutants in our environment on human health.

In Michigan, one out of every ten women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her body that could have negative impacts on her unborn child. More than 213,000 children and 654,000 adults in Michigan have asthma, with 160 dying each year from asthma attacks. Almost one thousand Michigan residents will die prematurely each year from power plant pollution. On average, they will die 14 years before their time.

Michigan laws designed to protect our air and water are ultimately what protect public health, and keep health care costs down. The Michigan legislature plays an important role in designing those programs and setting standards that balance improvements to public health with the costs borne by Michigan businesses and residents.

The federal government's goals are not always the same as ours. In the 1960's, it was not the federal government that limited phosphorus discharges into Lake Erie – it was Michigan. Today, invasive species again threaten our lakes; the federal response has been dismal. Michigan has the right to protect its own resources. Our state government should not adopt federal policies that tie our hands and limit our ability to decide when our public or the Great Lakes deserve better.

What are the real questions Michigan legislators should be asking?

- What pollution prevention services could we be offering Michigan businesses to make them more competitive?
- By focusing on adverse impacts on public health can we refine our environmental programs to better protect Michigan residents?
- What impacts are our current free trade agreements having on job creation and retention in Michigan?

The environmental community is open to engaging in discussions on how to refine and improve Michigan's environmental regulatory programs. For questions, contact James Clift at 517-487-9539.

